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Parade the Circle Celebration Coming June 14

CLEVELAND (March 18, 2003) — With fun-filled activities, 2,000 Parade participants and an expected crowd of more than 50,000 spectators, this year's annual Parade the Circle Celebration is sure to engage and delight those in attendance. Slated for **Saturday, June 14, 2003, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.**, this **free** daylong community arts event will feature a colorful parade, interactive crafts and activities provided by more than 25 University Circle organizations, food and musical performers.

"Parade the Circle is a day long celebration of the creative spirit featuring activities and entertainment which highlight the talents and diversity of the greater Cleveland community," says Robin VanLear, artistic director of the Parade and the Cleveland Museum of Art's community arts program. Located in Cleveland's cultural hub — University Circle — the event is presented by the Cleveland Museum of Art (CMA) and University Circle Incorporated (UCI).

Wade Oval Improvement Project

This year, Parade the Circle Celebration will be impacted by UCI's Wade Oval Improvement Project, which will revitalize Wade Oval — the park in the heart of University Circle. As a result, a construction fence will surround the Oval. Event activities, entertainment and food concessions as well as parade viewing will be relocated to the front lawns and green spaces of The Cleveland Museum of Art, The Cleveland Institute of Art, Case Western Reserve University, The Cleveland Institute of Music, Cleveland Botanical Garden, The Western Reserve Historical Society, and The Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

The Parade

Featuring costumed stiltdancers, giant puppets, musicians, and dancers from Cleveland-area communities and beyond, the Parade will step out at noon from the CMA parking lot and proceed in a circular route along Wade Oval Drive and East Boulevard. Creative ensembles will be designed and constructed by international and local artists as well as by schools, community groups, families, and individual participants in the Parade.

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"The theme for this year's Parade is 'Springs among Stones'," says VanLear. "Derived from the Gabriel Garcia Marquez short story, *The Handsomest Drowned Man in the World*, Springs among Stones translates into risk-taking in response to the natural beauties of the earth. Making one's own creative gesture may call forth unimagined flashes of delicacy and brilliance," VanLear explains.

Guest artists from Canada, Cuba, Trinidad and Tobago, Connecticut, Minnesota and Vermont will take part in the Parade by creating ensembles, serving as technical specialists and directing outreach programs with various community organizations throughout Cleveland.

Those interested in participating in this year's Parade or any of the workshops should contact the community arts department at CMA at (216) 707-2483.

The Circle Village

Festivities traditionally found on Wade Oval will be moved to the green spaces and lawns of the Circle institutions that border the parade route on Wade Oval Drive and East Boulevard. Beginning at 11 a.m., entertainment, refreshments and creative activities, sponsored by University Circle institutions, will give visitors a taste of what the Circle offers the community year round. Entertainment featured before and after the parade will highlight some of Cleveland's finest dance troupes, musical groups, and street performers.

"We invite all Greater Clevelanders to spend June 14 in University Circle at Parade the Circle Celebration, a spectacular community event. We are delighted to have this opportunity to showcase the vitality, accessibility and beauty of the Circle in addition to its wealth of institutional offerings," notes Diane Hansson, co-chair of University Circle's Circle Village.

For more information about the Circle Village, contact Debra Posner (216) 707-5029 or Sheryl Berman (216) 707-5035 at UCI.

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Parade the Circle Celebration is presented by the institutions of University Circle. The Parade is produced by the Cleveland Museum of Art and the Circle Village is coordinated by University Circle Incorporated.

The Parade is sponsored by Sky Bank and the Womens Council of the Cleveland Museum of Art. Additional support for the event comes from the Ohio Arts Council, the Institute for Museum and Library Services, The Cleveland Coca-Cola Bottling Company, the City of Cleveland and Cleveland City Council members, Patricia J. Britt (Ward 6), Sabra Pierce Scott (Ward 8), and Kevin Conwell (Ward 9).

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Note: A media kit to be distributed in April will give more details about international artists and Circle Village activities. Separate releases on Parade workshops and CMA's April 27 Mask Festival will be distributed in March.